



Related MLN Matters Article #: MM5026

Date Posted: May 10, 2006

Related CR #: 5026

### *Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC) Claims Processing Manual Clarification*

#### Key Words

MM5026, CR5026, ASC

#### Provider Types Affected

Providers and suppliers of ambulatory surgical center (ASC) services

#### Key Points

- The effective date of the instruction is June 5, 2006.
- The implementation date is June 5, 2006.
- MLN Matters article MM5026 is for informational purposes.
- CR5026 revises the *Medicare Claims Processing Manual*, Chapter 14 (Ambulatory Surgical Centers), Sections 10.3 (Services Furnished in ASCs Which Are Not ASC Facility Services) and 10.4 (Coverage of Services in ASCs Which Are Not ASC Facility Services) to clarify policy regarding the provision, coverage, and payment of services furnished in an ASC.
- Medicare conventionally reimburses ASCs in the form of a single payment that includes all "facility services" that the ASC furnishes in connection with a covered procedure.
- However, an ASC (perhaps as part of a medical complex that may include other entities, such as an independent laboratory, supplier of durable medical equipment, or a physician's office) may also furnish a number of covered items and services that are not considered facility services.
- Providers and suppliers should be aware that such entities, which are separate from the ASC, are covered separately under Part B.
- In general, the items or services that these entities provide are not considered ASC services, and are therefore not included in the ASC payment, but are rather covered and paid for under the applicable Part B provisions.

- Examples of such services include the following:
  - Physicians' services
  - Durable medical equipment (DME)
  - Implantable DME
  - Prosthetic devices
  - Ambulance services
  - Leg, arm, back and neck braces
  - Artificial legs, arms and eyes
  - Services of an independent laboratory
- Table 1 in the *Background* section of MLN article MM5026 provides more details and examples of services **not** included in the ASC facility rate.
- The revised *Medicare Claims Processing Manual*, Chapter 14 (Ambulatory Surgical Centers), Sections 10.3 (Services Furnished in ASCs Which Are Not ASC Facility Services) and 10.4 (Coverage of Services in ASCs Which Are Not ASC Facility Services) are attached to CR5026.

### Important Links

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM5026.pdf>

More information about services not included in the ASC facility rate (and the coverage of such services) can be found by reviewing CR5026, which is available at

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R975CP.pdf> on the CMS web site.

Providers with any questions should contact their carrier at their toll-free number, which may be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.pdf> on the CMS web site.